

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2008
*(Approved as Amended – October 6, 2008)***

Vice Chair Richard Nass called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:00 p.m. in Florian Hall, Maine Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present were John Arsenault, Jay Bradshaw, Chief Dan Brooks, Stephen Bunker, Representative Dean Cray, Chief John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Gerry Gay, Ron Green, Alan Johnston, Geoffrey Maker, Ed Marks, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent included Representative Patricia Blanchette, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Robert McAleer, Harty Norris, Representative Benjamin Pratt, Senator Ethan Strimling and David Wacker. Robert Tardy, a lobbyist for Citizens for Fire Safety Institute, attended as a guest of the Fire Commission.

A motion by John Arsenault, seconded by Ron Green, to accept the meeting minutes of June 2, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The 2009 Spring Conference Committee reported members are exploring options to partner with other fire service related organizations for the 2009 Blaine House Conference. Members suggested that joining with other groups might boost attendance numbers, lower expenses and offer more variety to conference attendees. The committee cited several issues that needed to be considered and resolved including dates and times, location, and costs. Maine Municipal Association (MMA) has agreed to assist the 2009 Spring Conference Committee with securing conference space once a date is chosen. Fire Commission members supported Augusta as the location for the 2009 Spring Conference. Members also discussed conference funding issues, program content and suggestions for additional partnerships. A new issue to many members- cloned vehicles- was suggested as a possible conference topic. The 2009 Spring Committee encouraged all members to forward additional suggestions and ideas on topics, presenters, vendors and talking points.

The Training Facilities Committee reported that the DVD, updating the Task Force Report on Training Facilities (May 2006), would be completed and available at the October meeting. Members discussed moving forward to secure funding for the proposed state training facility and the six regional training facilities. Funding options were discussed including federal funds, FEMA funds and the State's bond package. Members proposed asking the Governor's Office to include funding for the state and regional training facilities in the Governor's next bond package that is presented in June 2009 or November 2009. Fire

Commission members agreed the approximate cost for the state and regional training facilities must be identified. Acknowledging these numbers were estimates, members agreed to start with a total of \$30 million - \$24 million for the state training facility and \$6 million for the six regional facilities (\$1 million each).

A motion by Gerry Gay, seconded by John Arsenault, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission send a letter to the Governor's Office requesting the addition of \$30 million to the Governor's next proposed bond package. The \$30 million is for the purpose of funding a state training facility and five regional training facilities as identified in the Fire Commission's 2006 Task Force Report. The motion passed unanimously with three members abstaining (Jay Bradshaw, Stephen Bunker and Chief John Dean).

The Best Practices Award Committee reminded members to forward nominations identifying individuals, fire/rescue departments and groups who encourage and support safety and health for emergency responders in Maine.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee reported that they contacted Penflex, Inc. regarding revising the data in their original study. Fire Commission members had determined the need to update the numbers of the 2003 study prior to submitting legislation in 2009. Penflex has agreed to revise the numbers and necessary language for \$10,000. Fire Commission members suggested contacting several organizations to assist with the Penflex costs.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by John Arsenault, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission submit and support legislation in 2009 that requests funding for a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for volunteer and call firefighters in Maine. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

The Fire Commission discussed various opportunities and events around the State to promote the use of residential sprinklers. Several upcoming events were cited including Fire Team America, a national program supporting residential sprinklers, to be held in Bangor on November 12th. The Cumberland County Chiefs Association will host a sprinkler demonstration- "Learn Not to Burn"- at the Cumberland Fair later this month. Another promotional idea mentioned was that discounts could be offered by insurance claims adjustors and major insurance companies. The State Fire Marshal's Office noted that installation of residential sprinklers has accounted for a large increase in permits.

New Business

Fire Commission members discussed the upcoming 2009 Legislative session and the implications for Maine's fire service and the Fire Commission. Legislative members of the Fire Commission serve concurrently with their terms in the Legislature. Two Fire Commission members, Representative Patricia Blanchette and Senator Ethan Strimling, will not return to the Legislature in 2009. The Fire Commission plans to host the Maine Fire Service Day at the State House in 2009 to introduce the Fire Commission and Maine's fire service to the new 124th Legislature. The Hall of Flags is unavailable in February so the Fire Commission will reserve the State House's Welcome Center and arrange a variety of smaller events and displays. The Fire Commission also plans to host additional events during the next legislative session as well as sponsor legislation. The Fire Commission will also move the location of their monthly meeting to the State House starting in January 2009 and continue to support a legislative Fire Caucus.

Members are encouraged to submit ideas for the Fire Commission's monthly newsletter.

Members also agreed to make arrangements to visit New Hampshire's Fire Academy in mid-November. Members suggested traveling together by van and final plans will be decided at the November meeting.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Richard Nass adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette
Staff

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

<u>Monday, September 8, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, October 6, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, November 3, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, November 4, 2008</u>	ELECTION DAY		
<u>Monday, December 1, 2008</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, January 5, 2009</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm

To be scheduled:

Visit to the New Hampshire Fire Academy (mid-November)

